

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomohisa Sakurai **Examiner:** Unassigned
Serial No: To be assigned **Art Unit:** Unassigned
Filed: Herewith **Docket:** 17324
For: SURGICAL OPERATION
APPARATUS AND CONTROL
METHOD THEREOF **Dated:** December 22, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,217,003, dated June 8, 1993, issued to Wilk;
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-206544, published July 28, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 7-136173, published May 30, 1995 together with an English language abstract;

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 22, 2003



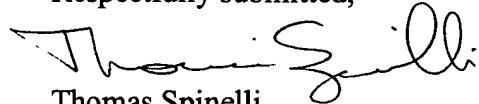
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4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-254141, published September 19, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-217826, published August 8, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-98979, published April 15, 1997 together with an English language abstract; and
7. European Patent Application No. EP 0 776 738 A2, dated June 4, 1997.

Applicants are submitting a copy of references 2-7. Reference 1 is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

